



# OYSTER BAY Enterprise-Pilot

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## Slave Graves In Black And White

By **DAGMAR FORS KARPPI**

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Photographic artist Xiomáro is continuing his odyssey to promote our national parks. While parks like Grand Canyon and Yellowstone get a lot of attention, the National Park Service sites on Long Island have a great history on their side and just need their stories to be better told. On Sunday, Feb. 9, he presented an illustrated talk at the Oyster Bay Historical Society Koenig Center about "The Other Side of the Fence," photographs of what is believed to be where black slaves from the William Floyd Estate are buried.

See **SLAVE GRAVES** on page 8



OBHS Executive Director Philip Blocklyn, raffle winner Linda Kikel with her print of outside the fence; Xiomáro, Nicole Menchise holding her print inside the fence. (Photo by Dagmar Fors Karppi)

## Hospital: 'We'll Remain Full-Service'

By **GEORGE HABER**

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More than 100 local area residents turned out Feb. 12 at Glen Cove City Hall to hear a panel of administrators from Glen Cove Hospital and North Shore-LIJ, along with doctors, city officials and consultants, discuss the latest developments in the hotly debated plans for changes in the operation of the 90-year-old Glen Cove Hospital.

This past summer, NS-LIJ announced it was moving its highly regarded orthopedic unit to Syosset Hospital, which is also part of the North Shore Health Care system. The announcement sparked an outpouring of opposition by the community to what many perceived as a first step to closing the hospital.

At the meeting at City Hall, hospital administrators and doctors affiliated with the hospital gave assurances that "The hospital is not closing," according to Mark Salazzo, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the North Shore-LIJ Health Care System.

The sentiment was echoed by Dr. George Dunn, a long-time family medicine practitioner in Glen Cove. "The hospital is going to stay open; it's going to be a full-service hospital."

In a prepared statement, NS-LIJ Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Battinelli, said "The North Shore-LIJ

See **HOSPITAL UPDATE** on page 8

## Dr. O'Hara Receives Excellence Award

By **ENTERPRISE-PILOT STAFF**

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Oyster Bay High School Principal Dr. Dennis O'Hara, OBHS Assistant Principal Taryn Johnson and Carolyn Probst, a guidance counselor at Westhampton Beach High School, presented at the 2014 College Board Middle States Regional Forum, where Dr. O'Hara was honored with "The William U. Harris Award of Excellence."

The William U. Harris Award of Excellence recognizes an individual from a College Board member institution who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the field of education, has inspired, prepared



The "College Principal" (Photo by Tom Gould)

and connected young people to college, and has shown a genuine commitment to mentoring education leaders in an environment that supports their development and growth.

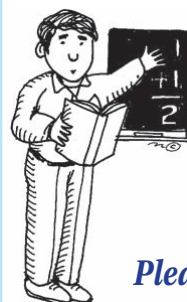
Dr. O'Hara has dedicated himself to the field of education for more than 25 years, most recently as the transformational leader of Oyster Bay High School (Grades 7-12) in Oyster Bay.

Dr. O'Hara's career began as a middle and high school science teacher, where he served students not only as a classroom teacher, but spent time working with at-risk students, coached wrestling and track, and acted as a class and club advisor.

See **DR. O'HARA** on page 4

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**HOSPITAL UPDATE from page 1**

Health System will continue to maintain a full-service Emergency Department, inpatient beds and a range of other services at Glen Cove Hospital."

Battinelli said the restructuring of the hospital puts "a greater emphasis on outpatient, community- and home-based services, in recognition of the changes occurring in the way health care is delivered and financed."

Community members expressed their concern that the hospital has not included them in its discussion of future plans, and has led them to believe the hospital was abandoning its role of providing services to the "geographically isolated" region which serves 76,000 people, comprising populations in Bayville, Sea Cliff, and other areas in addition to Glen Cove.

Jeff Kraut, senior vice president for strategy for NS-LIJ, cited declining inpatient surgery procedures at Glen Cove and an increase in ambulatory surgery to explain the hospital's new focus on ambulatory surgery.

Hospital executives assured the community that the facility would still maintain its emergency room and other facilities, including one or more operating rooms and a round-the-clock anesthesiologist. At the same time, Glen Cove's orthopedic program has been moved to Syosset Hospital, which is also in the North Shore-LIJ Health Care System; the first orthopedic surgery was performed there Feb. 3 (although as of mid-February, Syosset Hospital's website did not list its newly acquired orthopedic specialty).

Recognizing the large number of senior care facilities and nursing homes in the area served by Glen Cove Hospital, Battinelli said the hospital plans "to strengthen services in a way that will better meet the current and future needs of the community, especially our seniors, who will be able to access a broader array of care more quickly and conveniently."

Dr. Ingo Holm-Andersen, who is the plaintiff in a legal case against

the hospital's plans to implement its conversion to a primarily ambulatory facility, urged the hospital administrators to make a solid commitment not to abandon Glen Cove.

"Remember the old saying," he said. "You don't need a hospital until you need a hospital."



**Dr. David Battinelli, chief medical officer at North Shore-LIJ, tells meeting of hospital plans "to expand outpatient capabilities."**

New York State Senator Carl Marcellino, attending the meeting as a member of the community, said the meeting should have been held many months earlier, instead of now—after changes have already been implemented and others are being discussed. "Plans still seem to be in flux," he said, criticizing the timing of announcements and lack of involvement of the community in the restructuring of the hospital.

Some audience members expressed concern that not all Glen Cove Hospital employees who were terminated as part of the restructuring of the hospital had been "transitioned" to new jobs.

Salazzo and Susan Kwiatek, executive director of Glen Cove Hospital, assured the community that procedures were now in place to provide all excessed employees with employment in the North Shore Health Care system.

**SLAVE GRAVES from page 1**

His story contrasts the burial sites of the Floyd family members in an area bordered by a white picket fence with the black gravesite outside the fence. The family tombstones give the name, dates and descriptions of the dead while on the other side of the fence, wooden crosses painted white feature nothing but a first name: Charles, Caesar, Harry, Sam, Pompey, Lon and Isaac. Photographs from both sides of the fence illuminate the differences.

William Floyd was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and lived on the 613-acre plantation. Today his 25-room home, Old Mastic House, is part of the Fire Island National Seashore, part of the NPS.

Xiomáro explained that in the PBS series on the Founding Fathers, they said of using only one name, "That is how you make a slave." You strip away their identity their name, their family so that they have no relevant connections to their former life.

Xiomáro (pronounced SEE-oh-MAH-ro) has been involved in processing photographs he made of the William Floyd home when it was being renovated. Twenty of his initial photographs of the furnished interior were recently exhibited at Fraunces Tavern in NYC; he is currently showing the photographs from the Other Side of the Fence at the African Burial Ground National Monument in NYC, another view of those photographs. He said the NPS is planning to have archeologists take sonograms of the black burial site, when funds become available, to see what/whom lies below the surface of the land.

Xio will soon be photographing the newly renovated Floyd house. He said it is amazing to see young members of the family sitting down casually on the antique furniture that is theirs. The house will have decorative items from Colonial times to the 1977.

Xio is still involved with photographs he took in the basement and attic areas of Old Mastic House: places the public never sees. He said he was allowed to see the coal room, closed for 20 years. There he discovered a colorful mural of NYC on a wall, and carved into the wood were boats in the harbor.

**Fascinating Family**

The William Floyd Estate has been inhabited by members of the family for about 250 years, with the exception of seven, during the American Revolution when the British took over the homestead. He quoted Lynda Day, Brooklyn College Professor of Africana Studies, making the observation that the slaves appear to be an "extended family. And, indeed, William Floyd must have trusted his slaves enough that he gave them guns during the

Revolutionary War for them to fight to preserve his property and to preserve their home against the British."

The family escaped to Middletown, CT in 1776 and when they returned the estate had been plundered. Their family documents had been burned but other historic records have been preserved stating that slavery was first brought to America by the English at their settlement of Jamestown. The first slave documented in the Town of Brookhaven was in December 1672, Richard Floyd, William Floyd's father, purchased a man named Antony.

Over the years the family's attitude changed about slavery and in 1862, John Gelston Floyd, Jr., the grandson of William Floyd, enlisted in the Union Army to fight in the Civil War. He saw his second cousin and commanding officer, Captain Franklin B. Crosby, getting killed in action.

**Photographic View**

The photographs of the two gravesites, on both sides of the fences, were shot in color, but Xio chose to print them in black and white, reflecting the realities of our American past. He tried to create motion and emotion, and a depth of feeling in his images. In creating the black and white images Xio used special software to create the dense blackness he wanted. He also uses a tilt lens to focus on a special area of his choice.

Xio has made the exhibit available to the public by going to Xiomáro.com to download the e-book of the work, which includes research he has done to complement the history of the collection. You can also purchase copies of his photographs.

**Raffle Winners**

At the lecture he raffled off two photographs, one of the carved tombstone of Marian Floyd, wife of Charles L. Lindley, who was born on March 7, 1868 and died on July 23, 1887. The other photograph is of a white wooden cross that simply says "Harry," with another cross set in a foggy field, manipulated to add depth and mystery to the picture. Linda Kikel and Nicole Menchise won the signed 5 x 7 inch prints of images from the exhibit.

Xio's photographic journey is carrying him across the country. He will have photos of the interiors of William Floyd's house as part of an exhibit at Stony Brook's Long Island Museum.

Xiomáro became a part of the Oyster Bay landscape after his work photographing Sagamore Hill and his 2013 exhibition *How I Love Sagamore Hill*, which opened at the OBHS Koenig Center before traveling to Harvard University in 2014.

For more information on the OBHS please call 516-922-5032.

## LONG ISLAND SOUND TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW		
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	
<b>Thurs.,</b> February	20	2:20 (8.0)	2:45 (7.3)	8:43	8:56
<b>Fri.,</b> February	21	3:09 (8.0)	3:37 (7.1)	9:35	9:49
<b>Sat.,</b> February	22	4:03 (7.9)	4:34 (6.9)	10:35	10:50
<b>Sun.,</b> February	23	5:02 (7.8)	5:38 (6.9)	11:41	11:58
<b>Mon.,</b> February	24	6:07 (7.8)	6:49 (7.0)	—	12:51
<b>Tues.,</b> February	25	7:18 (7.9)	8:01 (7.4)	1:09	1:59
<b>Wed.,</b> February	26	8:27 (8.2)	9:05 (7.9)	2:19	3:00

(High Tide Height)

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# Slave Graves In Black And White

## An illustrated talk at the Oyster Bay Historical Society



Xiomáro chatting with Nicole Menchise, OBHS librarian/archivist.



Xio talking about the poster from the William Floyd house to enlist black troops for the Civil War; featuring an owl, spotlighted for artistic effect.



The full-size photo of the grave of Marian Floyd.



This photo was taken by Xiomáro using the "Dutch Effect," which means "angled to create drama."



*The Other Side: Isaac*, photographed with the tilt lens by Xiomáro and sent as a press release photo.



Linda Kikel chatting with Xiomáro. She is a regular attendee at OBHS events.



Xiomáro talking to guests at the Koenig Center.



Please open the envelope: OBHS Executive Director Philip Blocklyn; raffle winner Linda Kikel; Xiomáro; and Nicole Menchise.



The full-size photo of the slave grave. (Photos by Dagmar Fors Karppi)